SANSKRIT FOR FOREIGNERS

(An Introductory Course)

Mahendra Sanskrit University
Beljhundi, Dang

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मुनीनां दशसाहस्रं योऽन्नदानादि पोषणात् ।
अध्यापयति विप्रर्षिरसौ कुलपति स्मृतः ॥

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SANSKRIT FOR FOREIGNERS

Introduction

This is a package of four courses designed for a foreigner who can read, write and understand English. This package consists of the following four courses :

Skt. 101. An Introduction to Sanskrit
Skt. 102. An Introduction to Sanskrit Grammar
Skt. 201. A Sanskrit Reader
Skt. 202. An Introduction to the Sanskrit Language

Each of the courses is of five credits. The first two courses (Skt. 101 and Skt. 102) are prerequisites for the next two courses (Skt. 201 and Skt. 202), however, a student is free to choose only one course at a time. Full marks of each course are 100 marks.

Eligibility

Any student who has passed ten years of schooling or is studying in the undergraduate level of (an equivalent to) an American University is eligible for the first semester courses (Skt. 101 and Skt. 102). For the second semester courses (Skt. 201 and Skt. 202), the first semester courses are to be completed.

Fees

Any eligible student has to pay $ 200 (US) fees per course, $ 10 for English language proficiency test (once) and $ 20 as Admission Fees every semester.

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THIS IS AN INTRODUCTORY COURSE DESIGNED FOR A FOREIGNER WHO DOES NOT KNOW SANSKRIT

Skt. 101. An Introduction to Sanskrit

Credit Hrs. 5

1. **The Nāgarī script :** vowels. anusvāra, visarga, stops, nasals, semivowels. sibilants, /h/, conjunct consonants, other signs, numerals, transliteration, prosody, list of conjunct consonants.
2. **Roots and verb classes :** Vowel gradation, classes, I, IV and VI. Present indicative. Prefixes, Sandhi, Use of Sandhi grids. Sandhi of /r/ and /h/. Punctuation of vowel sandhi, **ca, iva, kim** and **iti,** sandhi grids.
3. **Nouns and pronouns :** Nominative, accusative and vocative cases. Substantives and adjectives. Irregularities of external sandhi. Nominal Sentences. Word order, **Iva**, Dvadva compounds.
4. **Past participle :** Instrumental case. Saha. Past passive sentences. omission of pronouns. **eva, esah, Va, Krtam, alam** and **kim**. Adverbs of manner. Internal Sandhi. Retroflexion of /s/ and /n/. Absence of external sandhi.
5. **The cases :** Dative, ablative, genitive, locative, Expressions of time, **ayam**, pronominal adjectives, **Kaścit** and **Ko'pi**. **as** 'be'. **bhu** 'be' to have. 'to feel' absolute **Khalu**. Sandhi of final /n/ and t + ś.
6. **Feminine gender :** Determinative compounds.

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dependent and descriptive. Prepositions. Action nouns in /a/. Ambiguities of external sandhi.

7. **Consonant stems :** Feminines in /ā/. Causatives. Class X verbs. **Karmadhāraya**. Prefixes. **purva**. Compounds of more than two members and their use. use of **gata**.

8. **Changeable consonant stems :** Exocentric compounds: bahubvrīhi. 'Called'. **atman, Svayam.** Predicative accusatives. Action nouns in **ana**. **Samvrtta**. 'Palace'. 'temple'.

9. **Stems in /i/and/u/ :** Stems in **vant** an **mant**. Atmnēpada. **Vartate**. Past active **participle**.
Exocentric compounds : Prepositional (including **Sa-. nis-** and **yathā**) **avyayībhāva**. Polite forms of address. **janah** in compounds. **disṭyā**. Denominatives. **Vrddhi** derivatives.

10. **Stems in /ī/ and /ū/ :** Stems in **in. in** as a verbal suffix. Present participle **mahānta**. **enam**. Stem forms in composition. The imperative. Abstract nouns. Exclamations. **garbha**. Verbal nouns in **ti**.

11. **Stems in /ṛ/ :** Preiphrastic future. The suffix **tra**. The passive. Locative absolutive. Relative pronoun. Analysis of **bahuvrīhis**. Pronominal table. Attributively used adverbs. The Suffix **tah**.
Numerals, concord. Nominative with **iti, Mātra**.

12. **Athematic presents** (II, V and VIII). Gerundives **Kṛ**. and compounds of **Kr/bhū**. Relative adverbs : clauses of place. manner and time. The suffix **vat. viśesah**.

13. **Reduplication :** Verbs of classes III, VII and IX. The infinitive. The future. Relative adverbs : noun - clauses and clauses of reason, result, condition, concession, etc.

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asau, ādi, etc.

ājñāpayati/vijñāpayati.

14. **The imperfect :** The optative. Remote conditions. comparatives, comparatives and superlatives. constructions with /iti/. Indirect command. Indirect question. Word repetition.
15. **The perfect :** The aorist. The injunctive. The predicative. **ahan, antaram, śastrapāṇi** etc. Metre (The **anuṣṭup**; even metres; semi-even metres, the **āryā. the kumārasambhava.** Mallinātha's commentary. Pāṇinian grammar. Literary criticism.

Textbook :

Michael Coulson (1976) **Sanskrit.** Teach Yourself Books.

Reference Books

1. A.A Macdonell ( ) **A Sanskrit Dictionary for Students**. OUP (Skt.-English)
2. Vaman Shivram Apte (1960) **The Student's English-Sanskrit Dictionary**. Motilal Banarasidass.
3. A.A. Macdonell ( ) **A Sanskrit Grammar for Students**. OUP
4. W.D. Whitey (1889) **Sanskrit Grammar**. Harvard University Press.
5. Dhungana, Neelmani, **Sanskritashikshaṇābhyāsa**, First Part, Mahendra Sanskrit University

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Skt. 102 An Introduction to Sanskrit Grammar

Cr. 5
FM 100

Objective : This course is designed to supplement other three courses of Sanskrit offered to the foreigners. Both Skt. 101 (Textbook : Michael Coulson : **Teach Yourself Sanskrit**) and Skt. 201 (Textbook C. R. Lanman : **A Sanskrit Reader**) refer to Whitney's Sanskrit Grammar. It will be difficult to master the offered courses without a due knowledge of Whitney's Grammar. This course will also be helpful to compare the two models (Panini's and Whitney's) of Sanskrit grammar, since Skt. 202 is an introduction to the Panini's model of Sanskrit grammar.

Textbook :

William Dwight Whitney (1889) **Sanskrit Grammar**. Harvard University Press (1987).

Course Referred

1. Alphabet.
2. System of sounds and pronunciation.
3. Rules of euphonic combination (Sandhi)
4. Declension

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5. Nouns and adjectives
6. Numerals
7. Pronouns
8. Conjugation
9. The present system
10. The perfect system
11. The future system
12. Derivative or secondary conjugation (Passive, causative)
13. Derivation of declinable stems.
14. Formation of compound stems.
15. Participles, infinitives and gerund.

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Skt. 201 A Sanskrit Reader

Cr 5
F.M. 100

Objective : The basic objective of this course is to give the students an introduction to the classical texts of Sanskrit literature.

Textbook :

Charles Rockwell Lanman (1884). **A Sanskrit Reader**. Delhi : Motilal Banarasidass (1996).

Texts Referred (The non-vedic texts only)

A. From the Mahābhārata

1. The story of Nala and Damayanti.

B. From the Hitopades' a

2. Preface and introduction
3. The old tiger and the traveller.
4. The deer, the crow and the jackal.
5. The blind vulture, the birdlings and the cat.
6. The ass, the dog and the thief.
7. The lion, the mouse and the cat.
8. The crows and the serpent.
9. The lion, the old hare and the well.
10. The birds and the apes
11. The ass in the tiger-skin
12. The elephant, the hares and the moon.
13. The blue jackal.

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14. The two geese and the tortoise.
15. The three fishes.
16. The herons, the serpent and the ichneumons.
17. The hermit and the mouse that was changed to a tiger.
18. The heron, the fishes and the crab.
19. The Brahman and his jar.
20. The Brahman with the goat and the three rogues.
21. The Brahman and his faithful ichneumon.

C. From the Kathā-Sarit-Sāgara

22. King Putraka and the seven-league boots.
23. Story of Mousy, the thrifty merchant.
24. King Sibi, the falcon and the dove.
25. Story of Ahalyā
26. The king who did not know his Sanskrit grammar.
27. The pathetic history of the stories.

D. From the Mānava-Dharmasāstra

1. The creation
2. The four ages of the world.
3. The Brahman's life, etc.
4. The transmigration of souls.

E. Riddles (29 & 30)

Reference Book

1. W.D. Whitney (1889). **Sanskrit Grammar**. Harvard University Press.

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Skt. 202 An Introduction to the Sanskrit Language

(Paninian system of Sanskrit Grammar)

Credit Hrs. 5

The basic objective of this course is to introduce aspects of Sanskrit grammar to the students who can read and write English. The course is divided into the following units :

1. Phonology.
2. The Devanāgari Script
3. Sandhi rules.
4. Parts of speech and the Sanskrit sentence.
5. Feminine Nouns in **ā; caturthi, Pancami** and **Saptami Vibhaktis**. Demonstrative Pronouns.
6. Nominal Stems in /i/ and /u/, interrogative, relative and correlative clauses, the k-y-t series of indeclinables and pronouns.
7. Feminine stems in /ī/, the **gaṇas** of the present system.
8. Noun stem strength, noun stems in - **an, anadyatana bhūte lang** The imperfect, prefixes (**upasarga**).
9. Noun stems in - **ah**, the **karmaṇi prayoga** (passive)
10. Nominal stems in /ṛ/, verbal adjectives, the **bhūte kṛdanta**.
11. Nominal stems in -**ant**, -**mant** and -**vant** suffixes, the past active participle, gerund the **loṭ** (imperative).
12. Nominal stems **in, samāsa** (nominal compounds)
13. The infinitive. **vahubrīhi** application of **Karmadhāraya** and **tatpuruṣa** the **dvigu samāsa**.

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14. **Dvandva** and **avyayībhāva samāsa's** the **vidhirling** (the optative mood).
15. **Vartamāne Kṛdanta** (the present participle).
16. Non-**gaṇa** conjugations. **seṭ, veṭ** and **aniṭ** roots. **lṛt. ling** and **luṭ**, the future system and the conditional, gerundives.
17. **Parokṣabhūte liṭ** (the perfect). Perfect participle
18. **ṇijanta, sannanta** and **yaṅanta** (secondary conjugations) **Nāmadhātu** (denominative verbal stems)
19. **Sarvanāma** (additional pronouns). **Saṅkhyā's** (numerals). **adyatana bhūte luṅ** (the aorist systems).
20. **Kṛt**, and **taddhita** suffixes, the **cvi** suffix, nominal derivation and sanskrit vocabulary.
21. Additional consonantal stem formation stems with final **samyukta** vowels; some irregular nominal declensions, declension of the comparative suffix **yāms/yah**, some remarks on adverbial formation.
22. Readings from the **Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇa**.

Textbook :

Robert P Goldman and Sally J. Sutherland (1987). **Dēvavāṇipraves'ikā**. Berkeley. Center for South and Southeast Asia Studies, University of California.

Reference Books :

1. S. M. Katre (1985) **Panini**. Austin:. University of Texas.
2. S. M. Katre ( ) **A Dictionary of Paṇini.** Pune : Deccan College.
3. George Cardona ( ) **Panini**. Delhi: Motilal Banarasidas.
4. Dhungana, Neelmani, **Sanskritashikshaṇābhyāsa**, First Part, Mahendra Sanskrit University

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A Model Question Set

Skt. 101 An Introduction to Sanskrit

Credit 5
F. M. 100
Time 2 hrs.

1. Write ten sentences in Sanskrit to introduce yourself. 20

2. Translate into English : 20

   a. सो जीवति पुत्रं च पश्यति ।
   b. किं शोचसि ?
   c. आगच्छाम इति वदन्ति ।
   d. बाल, किं वदसि ?
   e. अहं रमणीयानि वनानि पश्यामि ।
   f. को नगरं गच्छति ?
   g. स्वल्पं सुखं क्रोधः ।
   h. क्व देवदत्तः ?
   i. आचार्य इव शिष्यो मां पृच्छति ।
   j. आचार्यमिव शिष्यो मां पृच्छति।

3. Apply sandhi rules in the following : 10

   a. अपि + अवगच्छति
   b. ननु + उपविशामः
   c. उभौ + आगच्छतः
   d. कथम् + स्मरति
   e. तत् + जयति
   f. तान् + तु
   g. नरः + रक्षति
   h. पुनर् + रक्षति
   i. गायन् + आगच्छति
   j. सः + अवदत्

4. Write :

   a. The declensions (case paradigms) of the word अहम् 15

   b. The present tense inflections of the verb गम् 10

5. Correct if necessary 10

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a. बालकेन बालिका दृष्टः ।

b. बालकेन बालिका दृष्टा ।

c. बालकः गता ।

d. बालिका गतः ।

e. रामेण रावणो हतः ।

6. Use any five of the following words in sentences. 15

इति, इव, अत्र, अधुना, अपि, एवम्, अद्य ।

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A Model Question Set

Skt. 102 An Introduction to Sanskrit Grammar

Credit 5

F. M. 100

Time 2 hrs.

1. Transliterate the following words into the Devanāgari script. 20

   Mahārāja, Śitā. Rāvana. Devanāgarī, Himālaya, Nepāla, Śiva, Kālidāsa, Aśoka, Upaniṣad, Śākuntala, Caitya, Manusmṛti, Visṇu. Samskṛta, Śakti, Aśvaghoṣa, Brāhmaṇa, Anusvāra, Visargah.

2. Transliterate ten of the following words in the roman script 20

   महायान, योग, महाभारत, रामायण, पुराण, वेद, पाणिनि, पण्डित, ऋग्वेद, इन्द्र, पञ्चतन्त्र ।

3. Specify the place of articulation of each of the following consonants 10

   क, च, ट, त, प, श, ष, ह, य, र, ल, व, ङ, ञ, ण, न, म, ख, फ ।

4. Fill up the blanks with the appropriate forms of vowels: 15

Short	Long (dīrgha)	Guṇa	Vṛddhi
a			
i .			
u			

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5. Write a list of permitted finals in Sanskrit. 5

6. Supply the comparative and the superlative forms of the following adjectives. 10

प्रिय, चतुर, उच्च, निम्न, मधुर ।

7. Write all the words for the following counting numbers: 20

(Attempt any two of the following)

a. Units from one to ten.

b. Tens from ten to hundred.

c. Multiples of hundred from 102 to 1011.

Or

What is the difference between the nine classes of Sanskrit verb roots according to Whitney ?

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A Model Question Set

Skt. 201 A Sanskrit Reader

Credit 5
F. M. 100
Time 2 hrs.

1. Write down the story of Nala and Damayanti in about 150 words. 10
2. What are the four ages of the world according Manu ? 10
3. Solve any one of the following riddles and give your reasons. 20
   a. समादिशत् पिता पुत्रं लिख लेखं ममाज्ञया ।
      न तेन लिखितो लेखः पितुराज्ञा न खण्डिता ।।
   b. एकोना विंशतिनार्यः क्रीडां कर्तुं वने गताः ।
      विंशतिर्गृहमायाताः शेषो व्याघ्रेण भक्षितः ।
4. Write down the story of the King who did not know his Sanskrit grammar. 10
5. Explain the following with reference to the context.40
   a. विद्या शस्त्रं च शास्त्रं च द्वे विद्ये प्रतिपत्तये
      आद्या हास्याय वृद्धत्वे द्वितीयाद्रियते सदा ।
   b. उद्योगिनं पुरुषसिंहमुपैति लक्ष्मी
      दैवेन देयमिति कापुरुषा वदन्ति ।
   c. मूर्खोऽपि शोभते तावत्सभायां वस्त्रवेष्टितः ।
      तावच्च शोभते मूर्खो यावत् किञ्चित्न भाषते ।।

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d. प्रत्याख्याने च दाने च सुखदुःखं प्रियाप्रिये ।
आत्मौपम्येन पुरुषः प्रमाणमधिगच्छति ।।

6. Translate into English : 10

अस्ति नर्मदातीरे पर्वतोपत्यकायां विशालः शाल्मलीतरुः । तत्र निर्मितनीडक्रोडे पक्षिणः सुखेन वर्षास्वपि निवसन्ति । अथ नीलपटैरिव जलधरपटलैरावृते नभस्तले धारासारैर्महती वृष्टिर्वभूव । ततो वानराँस्तरुतलेऽवस्थिताञ्छीता-तपकम्पमानानवलोक्य पक्षिभिरुक्तम् "भो भो वानराः, श्रूयताम्" ।

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A Model Question Set

Skt. 202 An Introduction to the Sanskrit Language

Credit 5
F. M. 100
Time 2 hrs.

1. Write out in roman the following sequences supplying the proper Sandhi where necessary. Transliterate, then into Devanāgarī. 10

a.	Paśyāmi indram	b.	atra āsīt
c.	Śitā icchati	d.	Yadā abhavat
e.	Parama Īśvaraḥ	f.	Yathā ipsitam
g.	saḥ avasat vane	h.	Gatā asmi aham
i.	Tasmai adadāt pustakam	j.	Mahā rsih

2. Translate into English. 40

a. अस्ति नृपो दशरथो नाम । सोऽतीव धार्मिको भूमिपः सुखं जीवति। नृपस्य दुःखं नास्तीति भाषन्ते जनाः । एकदा दशरथो वनं गच्छति। तस्मिन्वने ब्राह्मणस्य पुत्रो वसति । अहो सुन्दरं मृगं पश्याम्यहमिति चिन्तयति नृपः । बालकं च तीक्ष्णेन शरेण हन्ति । ब्राह्मण आगच्छति हतं पुत्रं पश्यति च । सोऽतीव कुपितो भवति । नृपं च शपति ।

b. रामो राजमणिः सदा विजयते रामं रमेशं भजे
रामेणाभिहता निशाचरचरमू रामाय तस्मै नमः ।
रामान्नास्ति परायणं परतरं रामस्य दासोऽस्म्यहं
रामे चित्तलयः सदा भवतु मे भो राम मामुद्धर ।।

3. Write out the paradigms in all three genders for पूर्व

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(Pūrva). 15

4. Write down the relative and interrogative pronominal against the following words. 5

तदा, तत्र, तत्, तथा, ततः

5. Supply the third person singular present (लट्) form for each of the following roots:

10

a. भू	b. अदुहु	c. हु	d. दीव्	e. सु
f. तुद्	g. रुध्	h. तन्	i. क्री	j. चुर्

6. Supply a word for each of the following prefixes and write the meanings of the output (any 15) 15

a. अति	b. अधि	c. अनु	d. अप	e. अभि
f. अव	g. आ	h. उद्	i. उप	j. नि
k. निस्	l. परा	m. परि	n. प्र	o. प्रति
p. वि	q. सं			

7. What is the difference between आत्मनेपद and परस्मैपद of the verb roots ? 5

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